Petition challenging the Govt's determination of the tentative liability is pending in the Delhi High Court and the case is, therefore, sub judice. The question of taking action for lapse, if any, in the computation of the tentative liabilities would arise only after the said liabilities are finally determined. The case is being defended in accordance with the advice of the Government's legal experts.

Vacant Post of Adviser (Drugs)

1662. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Adviser (Drugs) is lying vacant for more than three years;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and since when;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are proposing to abolish this post;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that number of anomalies in various reports have come to the notice of Government due to lack of Technical advice;

(f) by when Adviser (Drugs) would be appointed;

(g) what are the details of officers who are looking after technical aspects and what is the qualification and post held by each;

(h) whether it is a fact that Government have received complaints against any of these officers; and

(i) if so, the details of each complaint, date of its receipt and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Inspite of repeated efforts to fill up the post of Adviser (Drug) UPSC was unable to select a suitable candidate. The candidate recommended by UPSC in 1990 for appointment to the post on contract basis did not join.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) UPSC will again be requested to recommend suitable candidate.

(g) Officers looking after technical work are well qualified to perform the various tasks assigned to them.

(h) and (i) There has been a complaint against the then Assistant Development Commissioner (Drugs) which is under examination.

Vacant Posts in the Department of Chemicals

1663. SMT. PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that number of posts are lying vacant in the Department fo Chemicals for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when each post is vacant.

(c) whether it is a fact that Junior Technical Officers in the Department looking after drugs Divisions and attending all important meetings.

(d) If so, names of the officers, qualification of each and the details of meetings being attended by each;

(e) what is the role of Technical Posts and for what purpose the same are being used;

(f) whether it is also a fact that a number of posts have been filled on ad-hoc basis; and

(g) if so, the details of posts, names of officers and since when each is posted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Three statements giving the detailed position in this regard are enclosed.

(c) to (e) Technical posts in the Deptt. exist to provide technical support in the day to day working of the Department. Meetings in various Ministries|Departments in regard to Pharmaceutical industry are attended by officers suitably qualified and well versed in matters pertaining to this sector of industry.

(f) and (g) The number of posts which have been filled up in the Department on ad-hoc basis with the names of officers and the dates from which they have been filled up are as follows:

1. Shri J. L. Sharma, Under Secretary (PI) working on ad-hoc basis with effect from 22-2-1990.

2. Shri S. S. Gupta, Under Secretary (Bhopal) working on ad-hoc basis w.e.f. 20-2-1990.

3. Shri A. S. Bhalla, Under Secretary (Chemicals) working on ad-hoc basis w.e.f. 20-2-1990.

4. Shri Abrar Hussain, Under-Secretary (Chemicals) working on ad-hoc basis w.e.f. 8-10-1990.

5. Shri V. K. Kumar, Section Officer working on ad hoc basis w.e.f. 6-11-90.

Statement I

Sanctioned strength and vacancy position of Gazetted Non-Ministerial|Technicals Posts in the Deptt. of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Vacant	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	Adviser	1	Post of Adviser (PI) is vacant since 9-2-1986, The post was thrice circulated in accordance with the recruitment rules but UPSC was unable to select a suitable candidate, On the 4th instance in 1990 UPSC recommended a candidate for appointmert on Contract basis who did not join efforts are being made to fill up the post.
2.	Deputy Advisers	1	The post is vacant since 19-4-1991.
3.	Project Officer	1	The post of PO (PC) is vacant since 25-11-1987.
4.	Joint Director	1	The post of Jt. Director(C) is vacnat since 31-5-91 on the superannuation of Shri B.B. Lal.
5.	Technical Officers	1	The post of TO(PI) is vacant since 27-1-1991 (FN) Consequent upon the promotion of Sh, K.M. Kaul as PO (PI).
6.	Research Officers	1	The post of RO(PI) is vacant since 30-4-91 consequent on the superannuation of Sh. K.L. Kakkar.
7.	Junior Technical Officer	1	The post of JTO(PI) is vacant since 1-7-1987. The post was circulated twice in accordance with the recruitment rules for the post, Firstly a candidate was recommended by the UPSE for appointment on transfer on deputation basis but he had not joined the Deptt. 2nd time again another candidate has been recommended by UPSE for appointment to the post on transfer on deputation basis. But the candidate is willing to join to permanent absorption basis. The case is under process.

Statement II

Sanctioned strength and vacancy position of Gazetted (Ministerial) Posts in the Deptt. and its Attached Office

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Vacant	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Director/Deputy Secretary	3	Panel from Deptt. of Personnel & Training has been called for.
2	Under Secretary	—	4 posts of Under Secys. have been filled up on ad-hoc basis in accordance with the instruction of the Deptt. of Personnel and Training by promoting departmental Section Officers (Sh. S.S. Gupta, Abrar Hussain, A.S. Bhalla and J.L. Sharma).
3	Section Officers/Desk Officers	2	One post of Section Officer has been filled up on adhoc basis by promoting departmental Assistant (Sh. V.K. Kumar). The vacancies in the S.O. Grade have been reported to the cadre controlling authority for filling it on ad-hoc basis/ regular basis.

Statement III

SANCTIONED STRENGTH AND VACANCY POSITION OF GAZETTED NON-MINISTERIAL / TECHNICAL POSTS IN AN ATTACHED OFFICE — OFFICE OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER (PI)

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Vacant (w.e.f.)	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1	Dy. Development Commissioner	1985	Action is being taken to fill up the post.
2	Assistant Director (Cost)	1990	Against one post, Mrs. Geeta Chhabra has been given offer of appointment. She has, however, asked for extension upto 30·9·91. Ministry of Finance is, however, being reminded from time to time for the posting of Asstt. Director (Cost).

Overcharging the Prices of Bulk Drugs and Formulations

1664. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1664 given in the Rajya Sabha on 1st August, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of cases of overcharging of prices of bulk drugs and formulations have been recorded by Government;

(b) what are the details of cases of overcharging came to the notice of Government under DPCO, 1979 and DPCO, 1987 separately;

(c) since when each came to the notice and what action has been taken on each;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government have not launched any prosecution case against any of the drug companies since 1979;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) what is the stage of action in each case of overcharging registered